

Remarks

Prompt and thorough reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The newly submitted drawings are believed to obviate the examiner's objections.

Applicant traverses and requests reconsideration of the rejections of the claims as being unpatentably obvious under 35 USC 103 on the basis of Wessman, U.S. 6,409,708 in view of Loo, U.S. 5,041,087, and on the basis of Wessman in view of Loo and further in view of Yokoyama, U.S. 3,662,752., and further on the basis of Wessman in view of Loo and yet further in view of Thompson, U.S. 4,623,343., and still further on the basis of Wessman in view of Loo and yet further in view of Raines, U.S. 4,687,473.

While applicant does not agree with the examiner's characterization of the invention as being suggested by the prior art with the exception of a vent cap attached by means of a hinge, applicant has amended the claims to distinguish over the various combinations of cited references, by adding language emphasizing the venting function of the relevant portion of the apparatus. Applicant submits that when the claims are considered in light of these amendments, the examiner will find that the claims in their amended form are patentably and unobviously distinguishable over the prior art.

Notification of the same is expressly solicited.

To the extent there is any fee required in connection with the receipt, acceptance and/or consideration of this paper and/or any accompanying papers submitted herewith, including the fee for the extension of time for responding to the outstanding official action, please charge all such fees to Deposit Account 50-1943.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


(signature)

BY: Sherry Barag

DATE: January 25, 2008

